

legacy. His pursuit of creative funding solutions in the face of increasing enrollment and budget constraints contributed to the university's reputation and educational mission, provided alternative revenue sources and created efficiencies at every level. New ventures with public and private entities—such as TGen North, the High Country Conference Center and the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) transportation spine that has become central to the growth of NAU—also played a role in the university keeping up with growth.

The physical transformation of NAU—both in Flagstaff and throughout the state—is a defining aspect of President Haeger's legacy. Under his watch, dozens of new buildings have been added or renovated, the result of careful and deliberate planning and a demonstrated commitment to sustainability during economically challenging times. They include the new W.A. Franke College of Business and Engineering School, nearly a dozen new services including an expanded University Union, a Native American Cultural Center, new transportation options through NAIPTA and new parking structures, expanded opportunities statewide for NAU students with campuses in North Valley, Tucson, Yavapai and others and new residence halls to accommodate the phenomenal growth of the university.

His commitment to affordability and accessibility is intrinsically linked to NAU's mission. In 2008, President Haeger initiated the tuition pledge guaranteeing the same tuition rate for each incoming undergraduate student for four years. It's a promise of predictability that has become not only a motivating factor for choosing NAU but that also serves as an incentive for students to complete their degree in four years.

His charge has been largely devoted to fundamentally changing the way college-bound students gain access to higher education. Some of the university's most pioneering alternatives to the traditional four-year college experience also have emerged under his watch. The cost-saving model at NAU—Yavapai garnered the attention of Governor Jan Brewer, who called it "visionary" and "an example for the entire state and the nation." The award-winning 2NAU joint admission program with community colleges across the state has won a statewide award for helping students earn college degrees. Students save money by completing their first two years at the community college tuition rate.

The Personalized Learning program that launched last year is now at the forefront of the emerging competency-based movement.

Under Dr. Haeger's leadership, he helped NAU in the resurgence of athletics by hiring its first vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics. His bold leadership was critical to the effort to re-energize Lumberjack pride and draw more fans to athletic events. Fan support is at an all-time high, and a new athletics branding effort puts the focus on such ideals as strength, pride, heroism, determination and hard work.

In this effort to improve athletics, NAU has impressive standards for its student-athletes: succeed in the classroom, contribute to the community and win. NAU Athletics has twice under Haeger's leadership been honored with the prestigious Big Sky Conference Presidents' Cup, recognizing overall athletic success in competition and in academics.

Finally, from his first days leading the University, President Haeger was committed to di-

versity, first-generation students and student success. His Student Success Initiative ambitiously implemented a number of programs to increase freshman retention and, ultimately, the percentage of students who complete their degrees. The First-Year Learning Initiative is an extensive effort to boost the effectiveness of first-year courses by creating an environment that supports student effort. One of the greatest strides in this area has been the launch of University College, which brought about curricular change at the first-year level as well as a culture change to provide new students with the framework they need to thrive academically. It's a giant leap in efforts to retain students at a higher level from their freshman to sophomore years, and from there to help them graduate on time.

The Lumberjack Mathematics Center combines the sophisticated technology with enhanced personal contact from their instructors. Governor Brewer called NAU "a true pioneer of education innovation" and called the center an example of its "steadfast commitment to its students."

A tangible representation of NAU's commitment to serving Arizona tribes, the Native American Cultural Center connects students to their culture and supports them through mentoring and advising. The center also directly supports Native student organizations, recruitment and retention efforts. NAU has earned a welcome place among the best colleges in the nation for Native Americans.

NAU's Center for Military and Veteran Student Center reflects President Haeger's commitment to our veterans and active-duty soldiers. The center has earned recognition for its efforts, including 'Military Times' Best for Vets designation in the Southwest region and a military-friendly designation from 'GI Jobs.' The Veteran Student Center in the business college ranked No. 6 among public business schools, No. 10 overall and is the top business school for military veterans in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, President Haeger's contribution to NAU is lasting. NAU, and the Flagstaff community, will miss him but we are better for having him. His commitment to education is unheralded, yet his legacy will endure. I'm proud to call you a friend, Dr. Haeger. Thank you for your service to NAU and to providing a bold vision for our future generation of leaders.

#### COMMEMORATING THE GROUNDBREAKING OF ZURICH NORTH AMERICA'S NEW HEAD- QUARTERS IN SCHAUMBURG, IL.

#### HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas; Zurich North America has been headquartered in Illinois since 1912, and in Schaumburg, Illinois since 1980, and insures global corporate, large corporate, middle market, specialties and programs sectors through the individual member companies for over 100 years as one of the first European insurers to enter the United States market; and

Whereas; Zurich is extending its long term partnership with Schaumburg, Illinois and the

company's over 30 year presence in the north-west suburbs; and

Whereas, Zurich's new headquarters is currently the largest build-to-suit office transaction in the United States; and

Whereas, their 2,500 employees in Schaumburg will be moving to the new, state-of-the-art, sustainable and environmentally friendly headquarters facility; and

Whereas; the new 700,000+ square foot facility will cost \$200 million to build and will create up to 700 skilled vertical construction jobs; and,

Whereas; Zurich continues its tradition of supporting its customers and neighbors during moments of tragedy, helping restore and protect business, homes, and families during their hour of need; and

Whereas; Zurich engages with its local communities to support charitable efforts financially and with the time and expertise of their employees;

Now Therefore, be it known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable L. TAMMY DUCKWORTH of the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, hereby recognizes the groundbreaking of Zurich North America's new headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois, and congratulates Zurich for its continual commitment to insuring America's businesses.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I traveled back to my district to survey the damage caused by severe flooding across Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 4899.

This Republican led omnibus bill does nothing to lower gasoline prices for consumers. Instead, this bill will benefit oil and gas companies by easing not only regulations, but weakening environmental review requirements. This is nothing more than a repackaging of bills already voted on by this Congress, and which I voted against. H.R. 4899 once again demonstrates the Republicans commitment to giveaways to big oil, while families in Minnesota are paying even more at the pumps.

On Wittman's amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Lowenthal's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Capps' amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Deutch's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Blumenauer's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Bishop's amendment, I would have voted "no."

On DeFazio's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4899, I would have voted "yes."